

Materials Flow Accounts of Radioactive Sources

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Radioactive sealed sources commonly found in industrial devices and consumer products are regulated by either federal or state agencies. However, under some circumstances, a device can become lost, stolen or abandoned and subsequently subjected to harsh environmental conditions. Such “out-of-regulatory-control” sources have the potential of exposing the public to harmful radiation. In addition to the public health risks, there are substantial financial impacts associated with the contamination of industrial facilities and consumer metal supplies with these sources.

This poster will address the question of how materials flow accounts might support more effective environmental management strategies to control radioactive sources used in commercial applications in the United States. In previous efforts with the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the World Resource Institute, and Yale University, the utility of materials flow accounting in the management of radioactive sources through the economy has been investigated, and the results will also be presented.